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Moreover, the word "constitutional" in the present title is rather misleading. No Occidental reader will stretch his imagination so far as to consider the Confucian classics as the Chinese constitution.

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**Yule, G. Udny.** *An Introduction to the Theory of Statistics.* Pp. xiii, 376. Price, \$3.50. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company, 1911.

The book is based upon the course of lectures given by the author during his tenure of the Newmarch Lectureship in Statistics at University College, London. As he explains in the preface, the material has been increased and a greater variety of illustrations has been introduced in order to render the work useful to other scientists "besides those interested in economic and vital statistics." This is a distinct service, because all careful scientific work to-day, in whatever field, places the greatest stress upon method, and this book represents the latest attempt to work out in logical order and related development the methods available for the discussion of statistical data upon which, as never before, our reasoning is being based in all the fields of scientific endeavor. No effort is made to cover the methods of collecting data or the history of statistics, although at the conclusion of the introductory chapter a number of references are cited for the use of the student who wishes more complete information on the history of the science. This plan of references at the end of each chapter enables the student to follow particular discussions in greater detail, and the exercises provided for each topic discussed, although frequently too difficult for the beginner in the science, furnish to the earnest student a means of testing his real understanding of the principles and methods presented. It is to be noted that all readings and discussions in statistics must meet the test of their effectiveness in preparing the student or the investigator to think in quantitative terms; to be cautious and discriminating in the use of statistical data; to analyze, interpret, and present the bewildering mass of recorded data in accurate and intelligible terms; and, finally, to discern the existence of regularities, establish the interrelations between groups of phenomena, and to make clear the relations of cause and effect.

The book is divided into three parts. The first is devoted to a discussion of the theory of attributes, which brings the student at once into a comparatively unfamiliar field. We do not question the logical appropriateness of leading up to the more familiar part of the theory by this discussion of attributes which puts special emphasis upon the consistency of data and tests of association but it is reasonably certain that many readers, especially beginners, will find these chapters too difficult to offer an effective introduction to the science of statistics. The second part deals with the theory of variables. The basis of this discussion is laid in a very comprehensive treatment of the frequency-distribution in which the author shows by concrete data and actual curves the various forms of frequency-distribution. He readily passes to a discussion of the need for quantitative definition of the

characters of a frequency-distribution which leads him to explain the various form of averages, the measures of dispersion, the measures of asymmetry or skewness, and, finally, correlation. The exercises offer excellent material for practice. In Part III the author discusses in detail the theory of sampling. It may be admitted that this is a very important subject for theoretical discussion, but, since it involves a knowledge of higher mathematical processes, the difficulty is much greater on this account. If the author had been able to assume entire familiarity with these processes on the part of the reader, his task would have been easier and the results more satisfactory.

With the limitations mentioned in putting the book into the hands of beginners, it will prove of great value to those taking up the study of theory and method in statistics, and to the advanced student of the science it will offer most valuable material in directing and systematizing his work.

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